

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information to a terminal device, said information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request signal ~~transmitted from the terminal device;~~

user identifier generating means for generating a user identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to the request signal;

generation source identifier storage means for storing a generation source identifier that is associated with said information processing apparatus and which identifies ~~ing a said information processing apparatus as generation source where of the user identifier is generated, wherein the generation source identifier is allocated~~ being assigned to said information processing apparatus by an apparatus that is external to said information processing apparatus and being received from an the external apparatus; and

transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the terminal device so that when the terminal device attempts to access the external apparatus by sending thereto the user identifier and the generation source identifier, the external apparatus is able to identify the generation source of the user identifier using the generation source identifier; ~~said receiving means, user identifier generating means, generation source identifier storage means, and transmitting means being included in a single device.~~

2. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the request signal received by said receiving means receives the is a request for ~~signal requesting the information processing apparatus to issue a user password identifying a user operating the terminal device~~

and to issue an introduction password, indicating the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier of the user password.

3. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~the said receiving means~~ includes means for receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device.

4. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~the receiving means receives a request signal requesting issue of the user password and the introduction password that are used for accessing homepage information contained within an other information processing the external apparatus, and the introduction password specifies identifies the homepage information of the information processing apparatus that introduces to the homepage information of the other information processing external apparatus.~~

5. (original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising individual information storage means for storing the received individual information.

6. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein ~~the said user identifier generating means generates a the user password corresponding to in association with the received individual information, and then transfers the generated user password to the individual information storage means that which stores the transferred user password correspondingly to in association with the individual information.~~

7. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the generation source identifier ~~storage means stores~~ the by said generation identifier storage means identifies homepage information.

8. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the generation service

identifier storage means stores an introduction password as the generation source identifier—identifying the homepage information.

9. - 19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) An information processing method, comprising the steps of:

receiving, at a first information processing apparatus, a request signal transmitted from a terminal device;

generating a user identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to the request signal;

storing, at the first information processing apparatus, a generation source identifier that is associated with the first information processing apparatus and which identifies the first information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier, the generation source identifier being assigned to the first information processing apparatus by another apparatus that is external to the first information processing apparatus and being received from the external apparatus; and

transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the terminal device, the generated user identifier and a the generation source identifier to so that when the terminal device, wherein said attempts to access the external apparatus by sending thereto the user identifier and the generation source identifier, is allocated from an the external apparatus and stored in an information processing apparatus and is able to identifyies a the generation source where of the user identifier using the generation source identifier generated, said steps of receiving, generating, and transmitting being performed by a single device.

21. (cancelled)

22. (new) The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the request from the terminal device is a request to issue a user password identifying a user operating the terminal device and to issue an introduction password, the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier.

23. (new) The information processing method according to claim 22, wherein said receiving step includes receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device.

24. (new) The information processing method according to claim 23, wherein the user password and the introduction password are used for accessing homepage information contained within the external apparatus, and the introduction password identifies the homepage information of the information processing apparatus to the external apparatus.

25. (new) The information processing method according to claim 23, further comprising: storing the received individual information.

26. (new) The information processing method according to claim 25, wherein said generating step includes generating the user password in association with the received individual information and storing the user password in association with the individual information.

27. (new) The information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the stored generation source identifier identifies homepage information.

28. (new) The information processing method according to claim 27, wherein an introduction password is stored as the generation source identifier.